

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

### EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

*The Santa Barbara Meeting.*—The annual meeting of the State Society, held last month at Santa Barbara, was a distinctly successful one, and the attendance was rather larger than is usual for Santa Barbara meetings. . . .

The plan presented by the Council for handling the insurance situation (industrial accident), was adopted without the slightest change and, together with the fee bill which was endorsed, will be found on pages 196a, 196b, 196c.

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*Ideals.*— . . . It is a commonplace observation that the men who are today being graduated from our medical schools come forth far better equipped for the practice of their art than were those mustered into its ranks some years ago. Thus premised, is it not to be deplored that the average medical practitioner is not a man of general culture, as we would have all members of a learned profession be? The world and its work was never better worth preparing for than now, for in science especially a new renaissance is arriving; the mysteries of natural law and human potency are being rapidly unveiled. The knighthood of the "Quest of Life" enrolls in the order of psychic and mechanical investigation and presses on to new accomplishment. Though neither wins the "Grail," each wins nearer to its laws. . . .

Education is to enjoy the best and know the best, as well as to produce the best. The degree of a learned profession should be something better than a meal check. It has been said, with some truth, that the allurements of Mammon are too often permitted to call our ingenuous youth from the proper business of school and college. Short roads tempt them to abandon the broad work of education and to go prematurely to schools of professional and technical instruction. The consequence is, the sending forth of half-educated men to plead the causes, to heal the diseases, and to lead the thinking of this generation.—J. Dennis Arnold.

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*The Fee (Industrial Insurance) Schedule.*—In looking over and thinking about the fee schedule agreed upon and recommended by the Council of the State Society, there are a number of points to be taken into consideration:

It is not a schedule of flat fees for all cases.

It is a list of minimum fees appropriate for workmen earning not over \$1,000 a year.

It does not cover everything; special cases need special consideration.

It is not put out as a contract to flat fees for which physicians must treat everybody injured.

The total amount received by our members per year will be very much more than what they get now.

Any member of the Society may be called in, if he wishes to do the work.

Any member has a chance to keep his patient and treat the injured one, if he wishes to do so, other things being equal.

It is especially understood and provided that unusual work shall receive adequate compensation.

It is essential that all bills be itemized and not "padded." Dressings used should be entered on the bill and a reasonable charge made for them.

All contracts to furnish medical services at wholesale are abolished.

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

### News

"Governor Culbert L. Olson has announced the reappointment of Dr. Frederick R. DeLappe of Modesto, Stanislaus County, as a member of the State Board of Medical Examiners. Other appointments include: Dr. Franklin Morris of Oakland as a member of the State Board of Chiropractic to succeed Dr. Roy Labouchotte of Redwood City, San Mateo County; Dr. Charles E. Hobrecht, San Francisco, to the State Board of Optometry, succeeding Dr. Geoffrey Davis of Sacramento; Dr. L. E. Pike of Long Beach to the State Board of Examiners in Veterinarian Medicine, succeeding L. G. Clark, and Mrs. Tillie Klob of Los Angeles to the State Board of Cosmetology, succeeding Mable C. Manzell." (Sacramento Bee, April 6, 1939.)

"Of 1,063 foreign physicians who took the state medical examinations in New York during 1937 and 1938, 622 were successful. The largest number of candidates (422) came from Germany, of whom 210 failed to pass. Austria furnished 112, of whom 35 failed. Of 488 graduates of New York medical schools, 5.5 per cent failed and of 285 from schools of other states, 24.9 per cent failed." (Federation Bulletin, March, 1939.)

"Dr. John R. Brinkley, who made a fortune from old men seeking the vitality of youth, was denied damages today by a federal jury which decided he was not libeled in Dr. Morris Fishbein's article challenging his abilities as a surgeon. He had asked \$250,000 for 'the shame, humiliation and embarrassment' which he charged Fishbein's article caused. The verdict was for the defendant, and Brinkley, from his Little Rock, Arkansas, hospital, said his lawyers will file an appeal immediately. Fishbein's defense was that he wrote the article, published in the American Medical Association magazine, *Hygeia*, as a warning to the public. From the witness stand he reiterated every statement incorporated in it, declared each is 'based on fact.' Brinkley introduced a number of former patients, principally old men, who said he had aided them in their search for sexual revitalization. Brinkley, himself, testified that, while goat gland operations proved successful in the restoration of human vitality, he had long since discarded the technique in favor of 'better' methods." (Sacramento Bee, March 30, 1939.) (Previous entries, July, October, 1930; September, 1931; April, 1934; May, 1936.)

"After sixty days of figuring, the municipal employees Health Service System yesterday worked out a balance sheet for its January operation and revealed that doctors received \$22,873.69 for service valued at twice that sum, even under the low rates set by the Health Service System. In announcing the 50 per cent reduction, system officials were 'so sorry.' They even expressed the hope that the deficiency might be made up 'some time in the future.' They based their admittedly slim hope on the possibility that the amount of illness among municipal employees would drop greatly during the summer months and thus permit the system to build up a surplus. Meanwhile, the medical director's office was attempting to determine whether a slash of doctors' fees for February service would be necessary. No estimates were available. With hospital and clinical fees totaling \$8,923 paid 100 cents on the dollar, the doctors were

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.